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the quantity produced in each state exceeding 100,000 cubic feet.

The value of the marble produced for monumental use in 1917, including rough and dressed stone, increased \$318,307 (15 per cent.) over that in 1916. The quantity, however, decreased 255,230 cubic feet (27 per cent.). The average price per cubic foot was \$3.50 in 1917, which was \$1.29 more than in 1916. There was a large increase in the quantity of dressed monumental stone sold in 1917—107,403 cubic feet (54 per cent.), but a decrease of 362,926 cubic feet (49 per cent.) in the quantity of rough stone. Vermont produced more than 55 per cent. (377,418 cubic feet), and Georgia more than 25 per cent. of the country's output of monumental marble. Missouri, New York and Tennessee rank next in this product.

Marble for ornamental and "other uses" declined in quantity but increased in value in 1917, as it did in 1916. Marble for "other uses" includes rough stone sold to lime burners, to carbonic acid factories, to pulp mills and to blast furnaces; crushed stone for road metal and terrazzo; small cubes for mosaics; and finished stone for electrical apparatus and ornamental purposes. The stone sold for flux to blast furnaces amounted to 21,194 long tons, valued at \$24,899, and for terrazzo to 17,551 short tons, valued at \$51,218. In 1916 the stone sold for terrazzo was 24,340 short tons, valued at \$83,466.

THE BRITISH NATIONAL UNION FOR SCIENTIFIC WORKERS¹

THE first general meeting of the National Union of Scientific Workers was held on October 27, and was attended by representatives of eleven branches with more than five hundred members. The constitution of the union was determined, subject to slight alterations in redrafting the rules. It was agreed upon by the meeting that the objects of the union should include:—(1) To advance the interests of science—pure and applied—as an essential element in the national life; (2) to regulate the conditions of employment of persons with adequate scientific training and knowledge and (3) to secure in the interests

¹ From *Nature*.

of national efficiency that all scientific and technical departments in the public service, and all industrial posts involving scientific knowledge, shall be under the direct control of persons having adequate scientific training and knowledge. Special objects deal with obtaining adequate endowment for research and advising, as to the administration of such endowment, setting up an employment bureau and a register of trained scientific workers, and obtaining representation on the Whitley industrial councils. An applicant is qualified for membership if he or she has passed the examination leading to a university degree in science, technology, or mathematics, and is engaged at the time of application on work of a required standard, though certain other qualifications are regarded as equivalent to university degrees and admitted in lieu thereof. A resolution was carried unanimously that a special advisory committee should be appointed to deal with questions arising in connection with the promotion of research. At the close of the meeting the officers for the ensuing year were appointed as follows: *President*: Dr. O. L. Brady (Woolwich). *Secretary*: Mr. H. M. Langton (miscellaneous). *Treasurer*: Mr. T. Smith (National Physical Laboratory). *Executive*: Mr. G. S. Baker, Dr. N. R. Campbell, Dr. C. C. Paterson (N.P.L.), Mr. R. Lobb, Mr. J. W. Whitaker (Woolwich), Dr. H. Jeffreys, Dr. F. Kidd (Cambridge), Dr. C. West (Imperial College), and Dr. A. A. Griffith (Royal Aircraft Establishment). The address of the secretary is Universal Oil Co., Kynochtown, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.

THE DE LAMAR REQUESTS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

THE will of Captain Joseph Raphael De Lamar, mine owner and director in many large enterprises, leaves nearly half of his estate, estimated at \$20,000,000, to the Harvard University Medical School, Johns Hopkins University and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University for medical research into the cause of disease and into the principles of correct living. The